

ZARATHUSHTRA

THOSE WERE EVIL TIMES
IN ANCIENT PERSIA.





Zarathushtra





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O, AHLIRA MAZDA, SEND US A SAVIOUR. LET THE PAST GLORY RETURN TO THIS EARTH.



AT THAT TIME, IN THE CITY OF RAE LIVED FRAHIMURVA AND HIS DAUGHTER DUGHDHOWA.

SEND YOUR DAUGHTER AWAY, FRAHIMURVA. SHE PORTENDS EVIL.

YES. THIS RADIANCE COVERING HER IS AN EVIL OMEN. THROW HER OUT.



MY CHILD, WE MUST LISTEN TO THE WISE MEN. BUT I CANNOT BEAR TO SEE YOU GO.



OH, FATHER, PLEASE LET ME STAY WITH YOU. WHO WILL LOOK AFTER YOU WHEN YOU ARE OLD?

NO, CHILD, WE MUSTN'T THINK ONLY OF OURSELVES. GO. MY GOOD FRIEND PAITARASP AWAITS YOU.



OVERCOME BY GRIEF,
BOTH FATHER AND
DAUGHTER STOOD
SILENT FOR A WHILE.
THEN -

LOOK AFTER
YOURSELF,
FATHER. DON'T
FORGET ME.

MAY
AHURA
MAZDA
BLESS
YOU, MY
CHILD.

WHEN DUGHDHOWA
REACHED PAITARASP'S
HOUSE -

WELCOME DUGHDHOWA,
DAUGHTER OF MY DEAREST
FRIEND. THIS
IS YOUR
HOME NOW.

THIS IS POURUSHASP.
IT IS YOUR FATHER'S
WISH THAT YOU MARRY
HIM.

WHAT A
LOVELY
GIRL! I AM
INDEED
LUCKY.

WHAT A
HANDSOME
MAN. I SHALL
BE PROUD TO
BE HIS WIFE.

THEY WERE SOON MARRIED. A FEW MONTHS LATER
DUGHOWA BECAME PREGNANT. ONE NIGHT -



THE NEXT MORNING -

MY DEAR, YOU
LOOK FRIGHTENED.
WHAT IS THE
MATTER?

I HAD A
TERRIBLE
DREAM.

THE SAME DAY, POURUSHASP
BOUGHT THE HELP OF THE
WISE MEN.

TELL ME.
WHAT DOES
THE DREAM
MEAN?

O POURUSHASP,
YOU ARE INDEED
BLESSED. YOUR
SON WILL BE A
GREAT MAN.

HE WILL BE
THE MESSEN-
GER OF GOD
AND WILL TEACH
THE WORLD A
RELIGION OF
LOVE AND JUSTICE.

BUT HE
WILL SUFFER.
JEALOUS MEN
WILL TRY TO
DESTROY HIM
AND HIS
RELIGION.

AT LAST, ONE SPRING DAY,
ZARATHUSHTRA WAS BORN.

LET US CALL HIM ZARATHUSHTRA.
ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT HE
SMILED INSTEAD OF CRYING
WHEN HE WAS BORN?

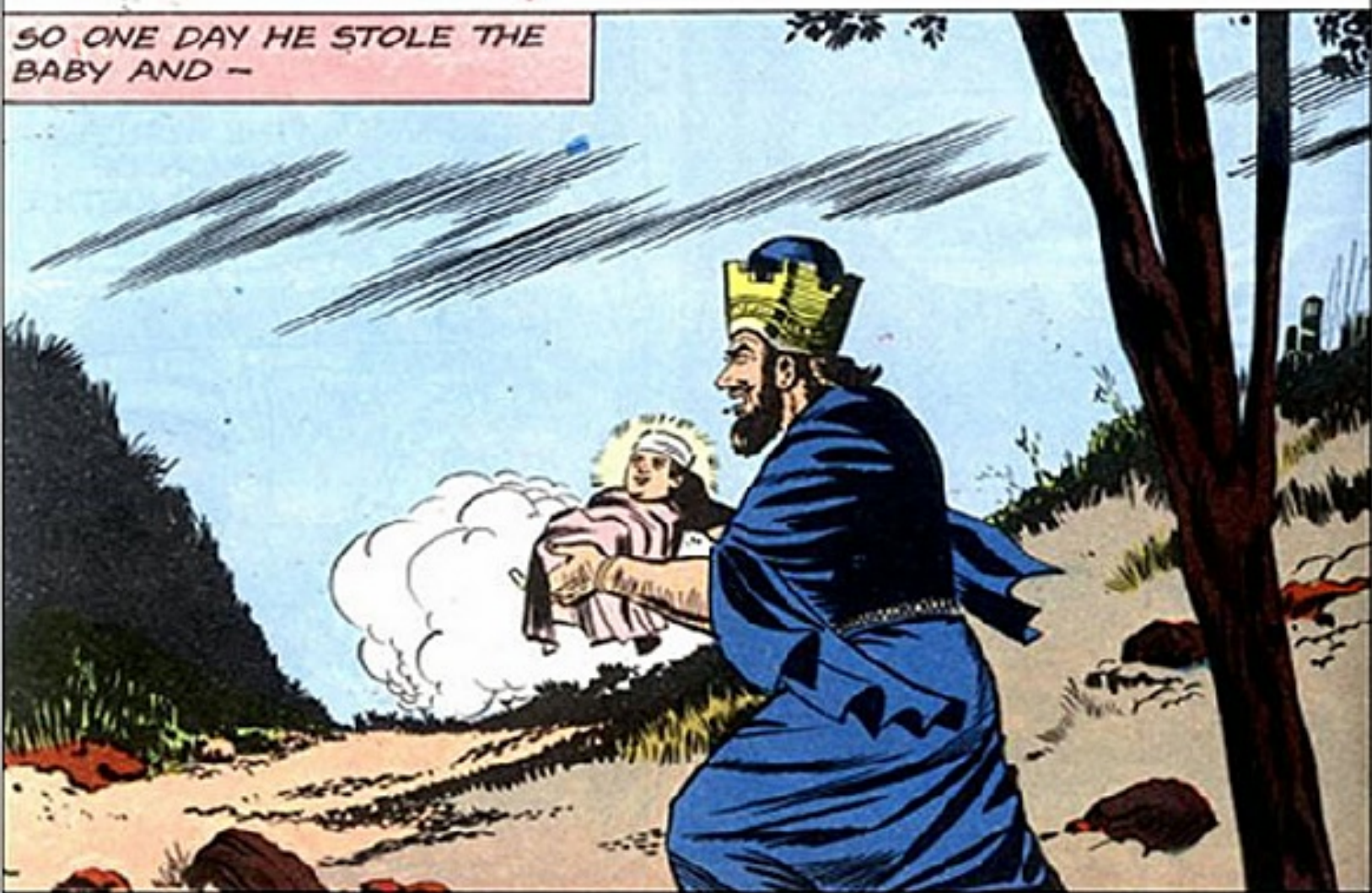


DURASROB, THE HEAD PRIEST
WHO WAS ACTUALLY A SORCERER,
KNEW ZARATHUSHTRA TO BE A
THREAT TO ALL FORCES OF EVIL—

THE CHILD
MUST NOT
LIVE. I
SHALL
KILL HIM.



SO ONE DAY HE STOLE THE
BABY AND —





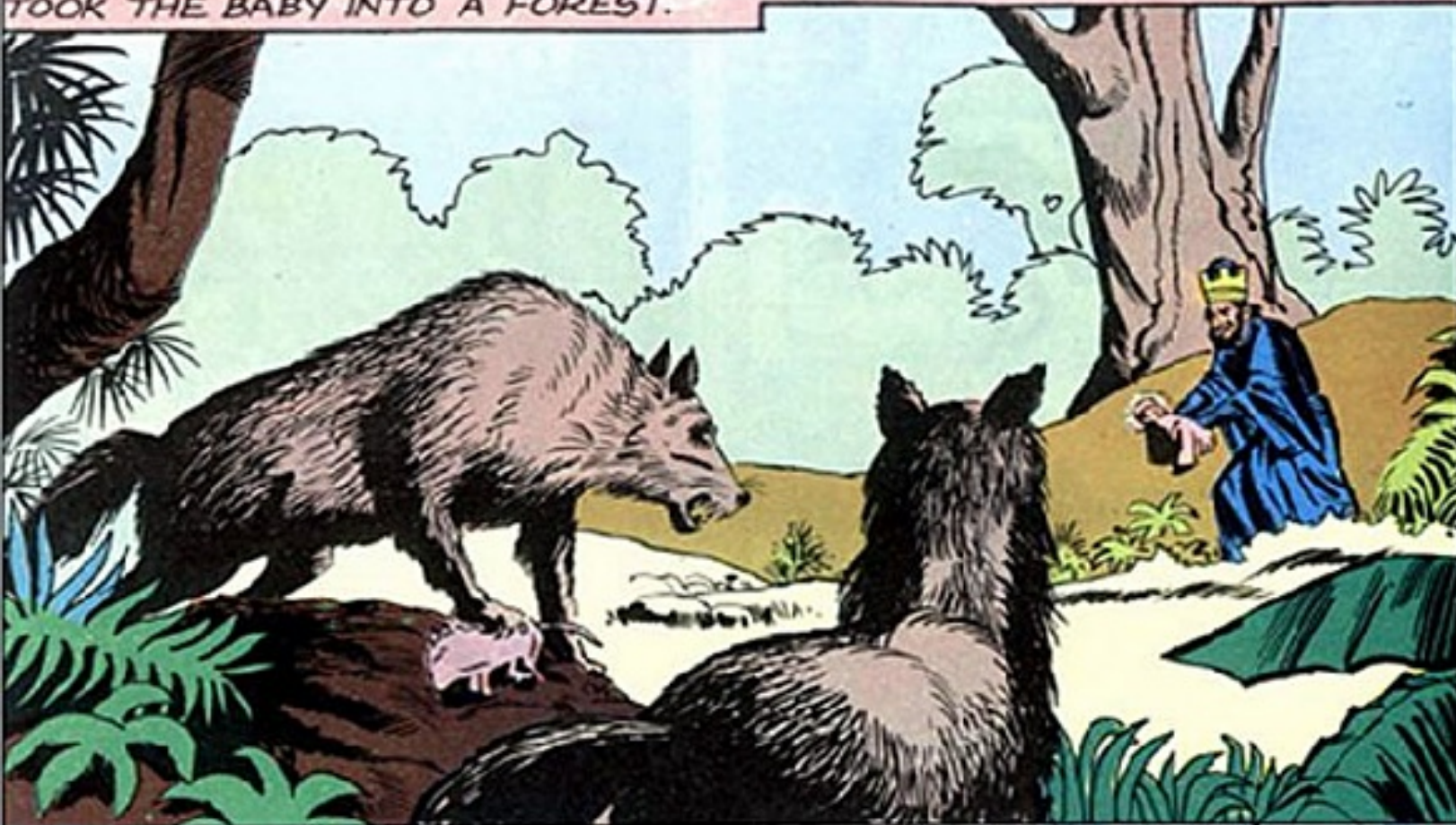
HAVING FAILED IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPT, DURASROB DECIDED TO TRY AGAIN.



ONCE AGAIN THE CHILD WAS SAVED.



THE EVIL MAN, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT ACCEPT DEFEAT SO EASILY. HE TOOK THE BABY INTO A FOREST.



YOU WILL NOT
ESCAPE THIS TIME.
THE WOLVES WILL
TEAR YOU TO
PIECES.



BUT THE WOLVES
TOOK ONE LOOK AT
THE HOLY CHILD
AND SLUNK AWAY.



DURASROB SEETHED
WITH RAGE.

I SHALL BURN YOU
TO DEATH.



BUT THE FIRE TURNED INTO A
BED OF FRAGRANT ROSES.



MY DARLING BABY.
HOW DID YOU GET
HERE? I NEARLY
DIED WITH WORRY.



A YEAR LATER, ZARATHUSHTRA
FELL ILL.

OH, WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO MY
BABY?

I SHALL
SEND FOR
DURASROB. HE
WILL CURE OUR
CHILD.

AS SOON AS DURASROB CAME—

SIR, MY SON IS VERY
ILL. CAN YOU HELP?

DON'T WORRY.
I SHALL SEND HIM
A SPECIAL REMEDY
IN THE EVENING.

MY POISON NEVER
FAILS. LET'S SEE HOW
YOU ESCAPE MY
CLUTCHES THIS TIME,
ZARATHUSHTRA.
HA! HA! HA!

THAT SAME EVENING -

THIS IS THE
MEDICINE,
SIR.

THANK YOU.
I SHALL GIVE
IT TO MY
SON AT
ONCE.



OH, YOU
NAUGHTY BOY.
YOU'VE SPILT
THE MEDICINE.
BUT WHAT'S
THIS? YOUR
FEVER HAS
COME DOWN.



ZARATHUSHTRA SOON GREW UP
TO BE A STURDY, CLEVER,
HANDSOME BOY.

YOUNG MAN,
IT'S TIME YOU
STARTED SCHOOL.
THE LEARNED
BURZIN KURUS
WILL TEACH
YOU.



ZARATHUSHTRA WAS THE MOST
INTELLIGENT PUPIL THAT
BURZIN EVER HAD.

YOU HAVE DONE WELL,
ZARATHUSHTRA. I AM INDEED
PROUD OF YOU.



ONE DAY THE AGING
POURUSHASP SENT FOR HIM.

ZARATHUSHTRA, WHAT
WOULD YOU HAVE OF
MY POSSESSIONS?

YOUR
GIRDLE,
FATHER.

ONLY MY
GIRDLE? WHY?

WHEN I WEAR
IT, I FEEL SO
CONFIDENT...

...SO SURE OF WINNING
GOD'S BATTLE AGAINST
THE FORCES OF EVIL.

IS DUGHDDHOWA'S
DREAM GOING TO
COME TRUE? IS
MY SON REALLY
GOING TO BE THE
FOUNDER OF A
NEW RELIGION?

ZARATHUSHTRA LIVED A SIMPLE
LIFE AND SPENT HIS DAYS
HELPING THE POOR, THE SICK
AND THE NEEDY.



HE WAS ESPECIALLY KIND TO DUMB ANIMALS.



HE PRAYED TO GOD FOR STRENGTH EVERY DAY.



ONE DAY POURUSHASP INVITED DURASROB AND THE EQUALLY EVIL BRATROKRESH HOME.

FATHER, WHY DID YOU CALL THESE SORCERERS HERE? TO PRACTISE SORCERY IS EVIL.



BE QUIET, ZARATHUSHTRA. YOU ARE FOOLISH AND IMPERTINENT.

BY ABUSING ME YOU ONLY REVEAL YOURSELF, BRATROKRESH.



THIS BOY WILL
INDEED GROW
UP TO BE A
GREAT MAN.

YES, HOW EASILY HE
SAW THROUGH THE
EVIL MAGICIAN AND
PUT HIM IN HIS
PLACE.



ZARATHUSHTRA LEFT HOME IN
SEARCH OF TRUTH.



ON THE WAY, HE HAD TO CROSS
THE RIVER ABAHI, WHERE
THERE WAS NEITHER BRIDGE
NOR BOAT, BUT -



HE WANDERED THROUGH
THE LAND, STUDYING THE
MYSTERIES OF NATURE.



THEN HE CAME TO ANOTHER
RIVER - THE DATTI.



HE BEGAN TO CROSS IT.



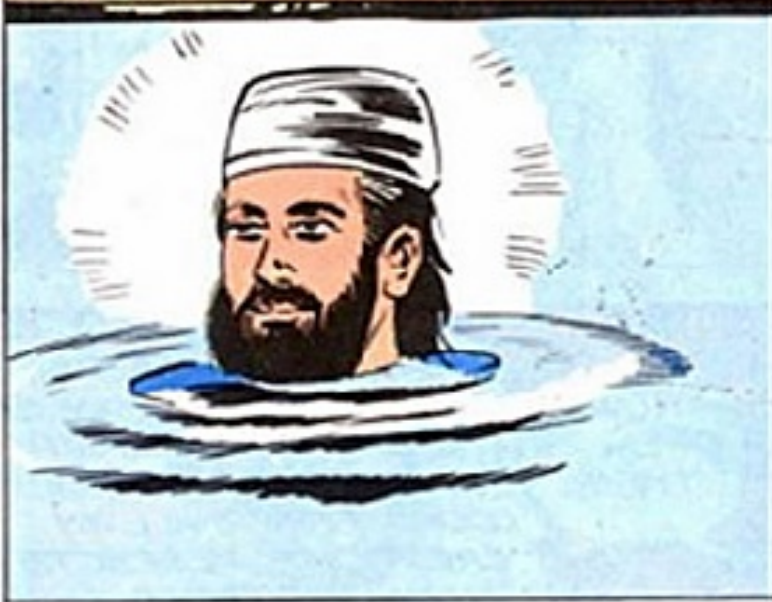
THE WATER REACHED HIS KNEES...



...THEN HIS CHEST...



...AND HIS NECK. BUT NO HIGHER.



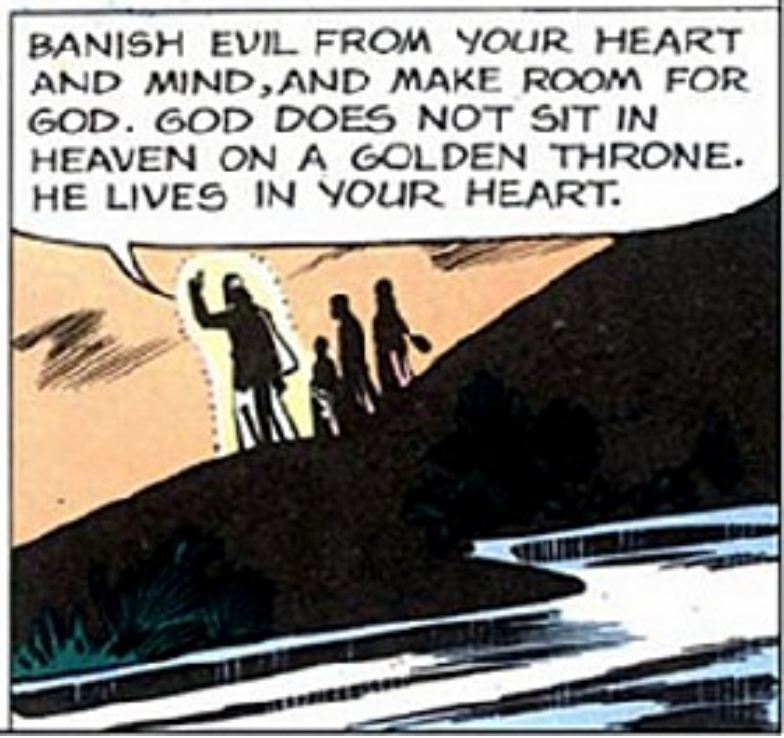
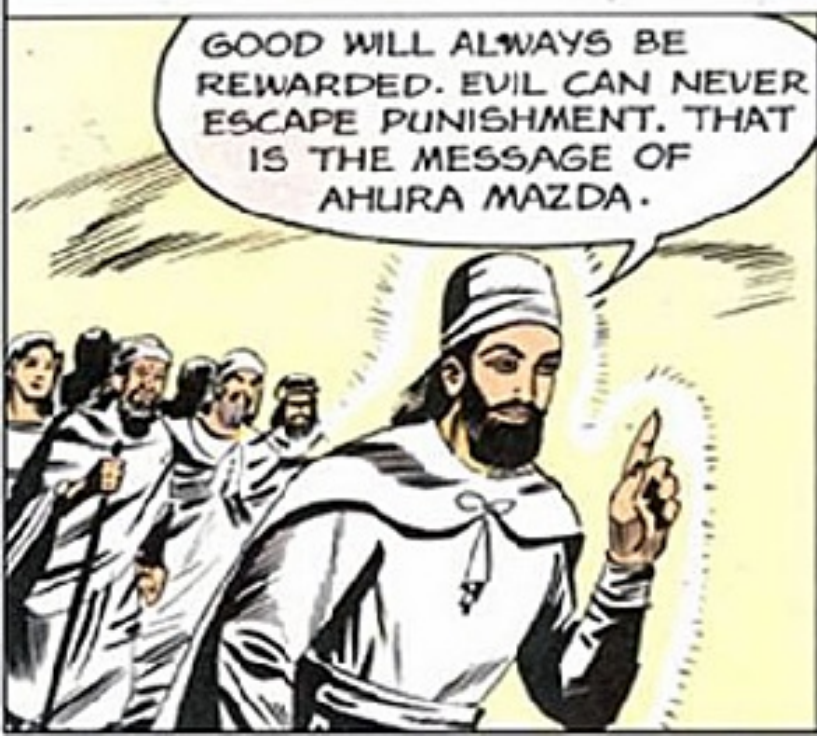
WHEN HE REACHED THE OTHER SIDE,
HE STEPPED OUT, GLOWING WITH A
NEW LIGHT.



THIS MIRACULOUS EPISODE INDICATED THAT THE NEW
RELIGION ZARATHUSHTRA WAS TO FOUND, WOULD
SPREAD THROUGH THE WORLD IN FOUR STAGES.

THE ANGEL OF THE GOOD MIND, VOHU MANO, STOOD BEFORE HIM.





ONE DAY -



COUSIN MEDIYOMAH,
I HAVE SEEN YOU
FOLLOWING ME.
WHAT CAN I DO
FOR YOU?

I WANT
TO BE YOUR
DISCIPLE.
TEACH ME
THE RELIGION
OF AHURA
MAZDA.



COME AND LISTEN
CAREFULLY TO
WHAT I HAVE
TO SAY.

MANY YEARS LATER,
IN THE KINGDOM OF
BALKH IN PERSIA,
KING GUSHTASP
HAD A DREAM -



ZARATHUSHTRA CAME THROUGH
THE ROOF ON A GOLDEN
THRONE, HOLDING A BALL OF
FIRE, THE SACRED BOOK
(AVESTA) AND A PLANT.

GUSHTASP PLANTED THE TREE,
WHICH SPOKE TO HIM.



THERE IS ONLY ONE
GOD. HE HAS TAUGHT
ZARATHUSHTRA THE
TRUE RELIGION.
FOLLOW IT,
GUSHTASP.

ZARATHUSHTRA HANDED THE
BALL OF FIRE TO GUSHTASP.



IT DOES NOT BURN MY
HAND, NOR CAN IT BE PUT
OUT BY WATER OR
EARTH. IT'S A
MIRACLE.

THIS IS THE
AVESTA, GOD'S
HOLY BOOK.



THE NEXT MORNING -

YOUR MAJESTY.
THERE IS A
MAN OUTSIDE
WHO WANTS
TO SPEAK
TO YOU.



WHAT
IS HIS
NAME?

HE CALLS
HIMSELF
ZARATHUSH-
TRA.

ZARATHUSH-
TRA! IS
IT... IT CANNOT
BE. SEND
HIM IN AT
ONCE.



O GREAT
KING GUSHTASP,
MAY GOD BLESS
YOU WITH
WISDOM, POWER
AND LONG
LIFE.



I SHALL BELIEVE
IN YOUR GOD
IF YOU CAN
ANSWER THE
QUESTIONS
OF THESE
WISE MEN.

VERY WELL,
YOUR
MAJESTY.



ZARATHUSHTRA ANSWERED THEIR
QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD AND
HEAVEN AND EARTH. HE TOLD
THEM THINGS THAT NO LIVING
MAN HAD TOLD THEM BEFORE.

HE HAS
ANSWERED
OUR MOST
DIFFICULT
QUESTIONS.

NO ORDINARY MAN
CAN HAVE SUCH
KNOWLEDGE. IT
COULD ONLY HAVE
BEEN GIVEN TO
HIM BY GOD.



COME, ZARATHU-
SHTRA. YOURS
SHALL BE THE MOST
HONOURED PLACE
IN MY PALACE.
SIT BY MY
SIDE.



KING GUSHTASP,
YOU MUST ABIDE
BY THE TEACH-
INGS IN THE
AVESTA.

YES, BUT
FIRST SHOW ME
A MIRACLE.



THIS AVESTA IS THE
GREATEST MIRACLE.
IN MY RELIGION THERE
ARE NO OTHER
MIRACLES.

FORGIVE ME.
COME EVERY
MORNING TO MY
PALACE AND TEACH
ME THE TRUTHS
OF THIS HOLY
BOOK.



THE COURTIER'S WERE JEALOUS OF ZARATHUSHTRA'S SPECIAL POSITION.

THE KING HAS GIVEN ZARATHUSHTRA A HOUSE IN THE PALACE GROUNDS.

THE KING LISTENS TO EVERYTHING HE SAYS.



WE MUST GET RID OF HIM. LET'S KILL HIM.

NO. WE'LL LOSE OUR HEADS IF THE KING FINDS OUT. I HAVE A BETTER PLAN.



THEN, THEY VISITED ZARATHUSHTRA'S HOUSE AND —

LET'S PLACE THEM HERE.

HURRY. I DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT.



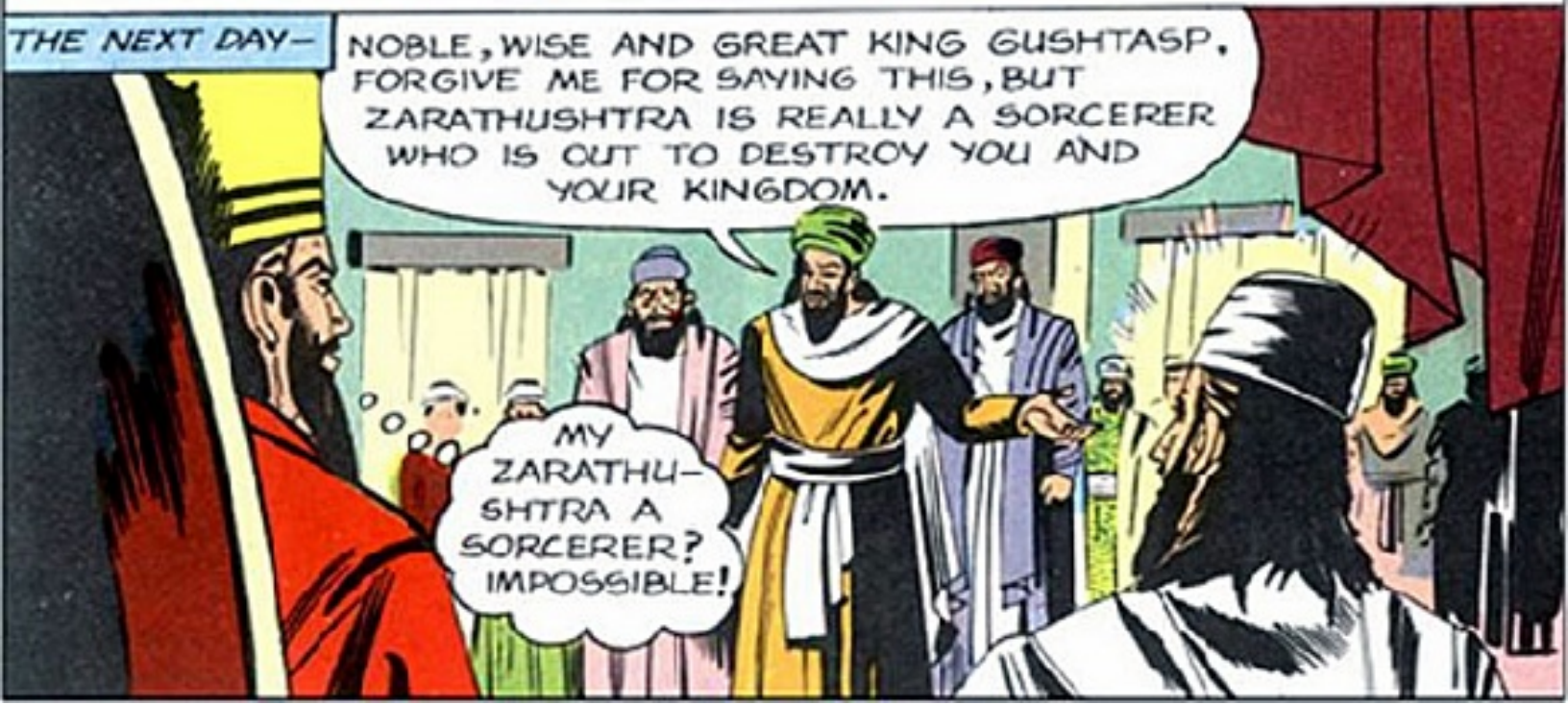
I HOPE, WE HAVEN'T LEFT ANY OF OUR OWN THINGS BEHIND.

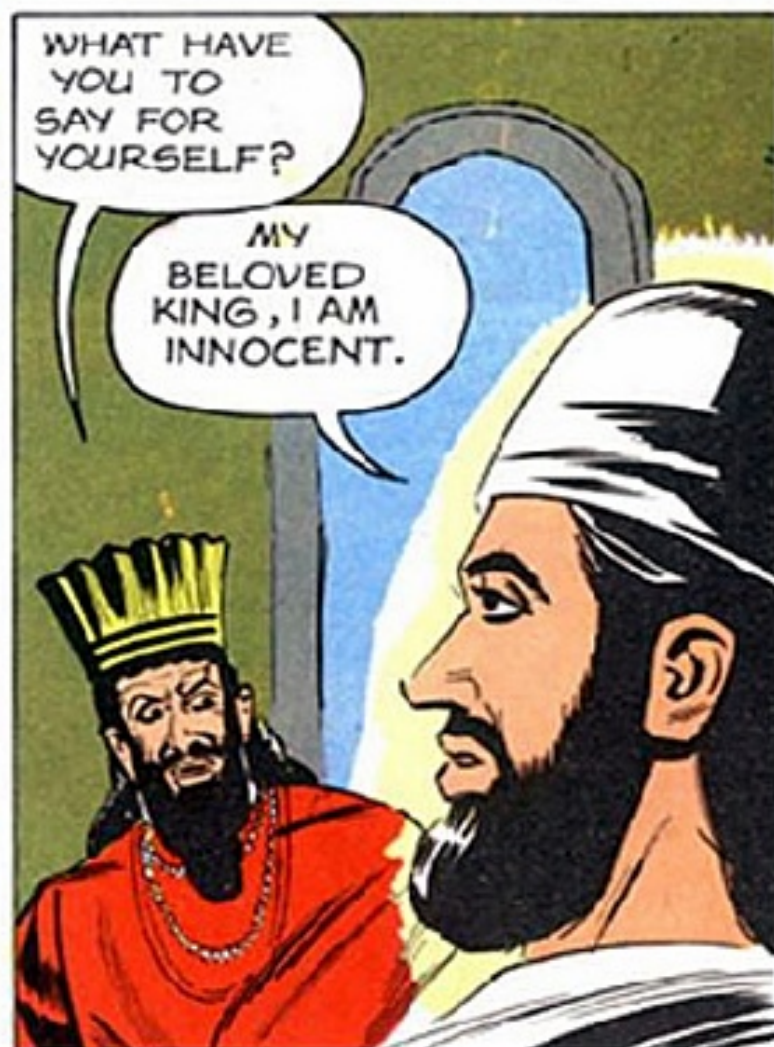
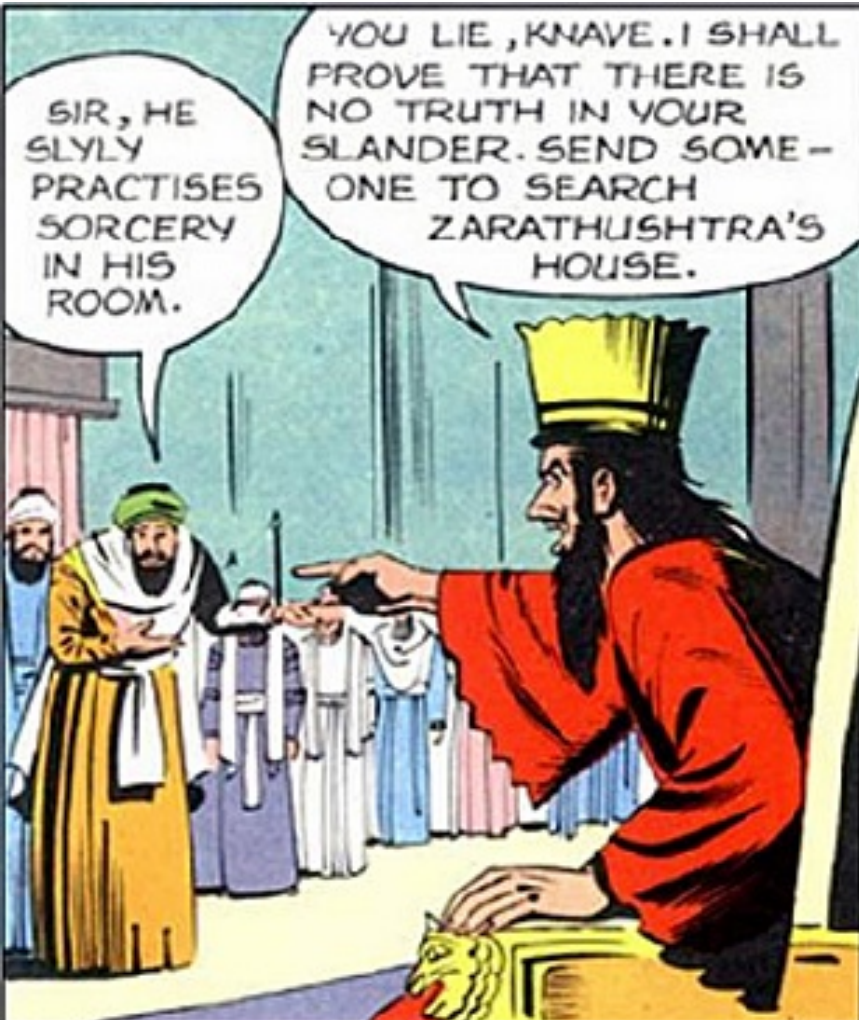


THE NEXT DAY—

NOBLE, WISE AND GREAT KING GUSHTASP, FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT ZARATHUSHTRA IS REALLY A SORCERER WHO IS OUT TO DESTROY YOU AND YOUR KINGDOM.

MY ZARATHUSHTRA A SORCERER? IMPOSSIBLE!







A WEEK LATER —



WILL MY BELOVED ASP-I-SIAH EVER GET WELL? IT'S THREE DAYS NOW, SINCE HIS KEEPER FOUND HIM WITH HIS LEGS EMBEDDED IN HIS STOMACH. NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CURE HIM, YET.

YOUR MAJESTY, SHALL I GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT? YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED FOOD FOR THREE DAYS.



NO, MY FRIEND. HOW CAN I THINK OF EATING WHEN MY BELOVED STEED CANNOT EVEN STAND.

THAT EVENING —



YOUR MAJESTY, I AM THE GUARD OUTSIDE ZARATHUSHTRA'S CELL. HE ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE COULD CURE ASP-I-SIAH.

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE? FREE HIM AND BRING HIM HERE AT ONCE.

ZARATHUSHTRA,
YOU HAVE ONE
LAST 'CHANCE
TO PROVE THE
GREATNESS
OF YOUR GOD.
CURE MY
HORSE.

KING GUSHTASP, YOUR FAITH
ALONE CAN SAVE ASP-I-SIAH.
YOUR HORSE CAN BE CURED
ONLY IF YOU HAVE COMPLETE
FAITH IN ME AND FULFIL
FOUR CONDI-
TIONS.



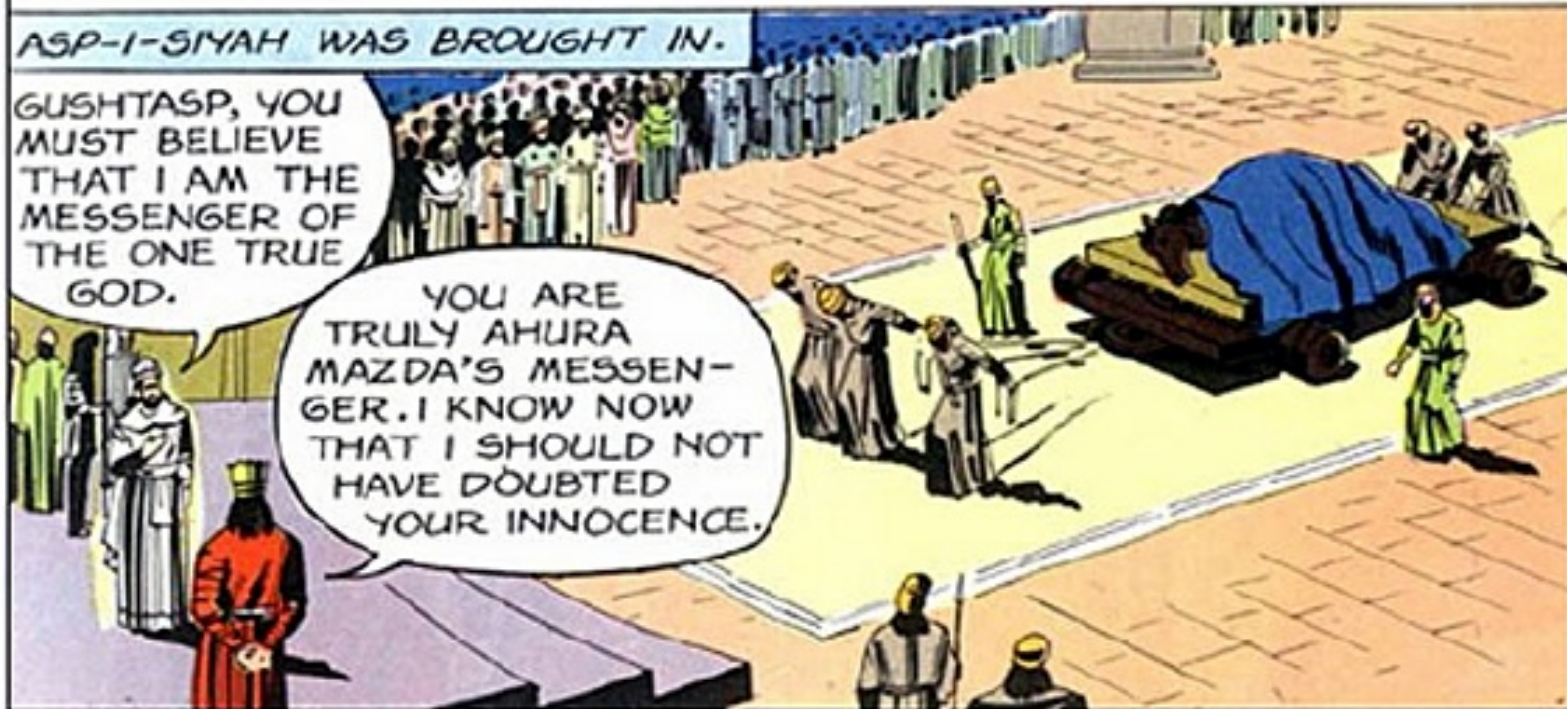
I'LL DO ANYTHING
YOU SAY. JUST
NAME THE
CONDITIONS.



ASP-I-SIAH WAS BROUGHT IN.

GUSHTASP, YOU
MUST BELIEVE
THAT I AM THE
MESSENGER OF
THE ONE TRUE
GOD.

YOU ARE
TRULY AHURA
MAZDA'S MESSENGER. I KNOW NOW
THAT I SHOULD NOT
HAVE DOUBTED
YOUR INNOCENCE.





AHURA MAZDA,
ACCEPT YOUR
FOLLOWER,
KING GUSHTASP.



THE
FIRST LEG OF
ASP-I-SIYAH IS
FREE! GLORY TO
ZARATHUSHTRA.



YOUR MAJESTY, SEND
FOR YOUR SON,
THE BRAVE
ASPANDIAR.



AS SOON AS ASPANDIAR CAME IN

ASPANDIAR, YOU ARE NOTED
THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM
FOR YOUR BRAVERY. PROMISE
THAT YOU WILL USE YOUR
STRENGTH IN THE BATTLE
FOR THE TRUE RELIGION;
THAT YOU WILL SPREAD
GOD'S MESSAGE
TO THE PEOPLE.

I PROMISE,
ZARA-
THUSH-
TRA.

AHURA MAZDA,
MAY THE
SECOND LEG
OF ASP-I-SIYAH
BE RELEASED.

ZARATHUSHTRA
IS TRULY
GREAT.

KING GUSHTASP,
WITH YOUR
PERMISSION
I SHALL NOW
MEET YOUR
QUEEN.

GUARD,
TAKE HOLY
ZARATHUSH-
TRA
TO HER
MAJESTY.

NOBLE QUEEN,
YOU HAVE BEEN
BLESSED WITH
A WISE HUSBAND
AND A BRAVE
SON. ACKNOWL-
EDGE YOUR
DEBT TO GOD
BY FOLLOWING
HIS PATH.

I HAVE HEARD OF
YOUR GREATNESS,
ZARATHUSHTRA. I
SHALL BE PROUD
TO SERVE YOUR
GOD.

WHEN ZARATHUSHTRA RETURNED TO THE COURT—

BELOVED ZARATHUSHTRA, ASP-I-SIYAH'S THIRD LEG HAS BEEN FREED.

BECAUSE THE THIRD CONDITION HAS BEEN FULFILLED.



NOW, PLEASE CALL THE KEEPER OF MY APARTMENT, AND QUESTION HIM AGAIN.

SUMMON THE KEEPER AT ONCE.



WHEN THE KEEPER CAME—

TELL THE TRUTH AND YOU WILL BE PARDONED. LIE, AND YOU WILL NOT LIVE.

YOUR MAJESTY, F-F-FORGIVE ME, THE BONES AND SKULLS WERE PUT IN ZARATHUSHTRA'S ROOM BY THOSE C-C-COURTIERS.



GUSHTASP WAS FURIOUS.

YOU ARE BANISHED FROM MY LAND. IF I SET EYES ON ANY OF YOU AGAIN, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR HEADS.



YOUR MAJESTY, ASP-I-SIYAH...!!



FORGIVE ME,
ZARATHUSHTRA,
FOR HAVING
DOUBTED YOU.
YOUR GOD
AND YOU ARE
INDEED
GREAT.



YEARS LATER -

YOUR MAJESTY,
FOUR MEN ON
HORSEBACK ARE
OUTSIDE YOUR
GATES. I WAS
NEARLY BLINDED
BY THEIR
DAZZLING
GARMENTS.



WHO COULD
THEY BE?
SEND THEM
IN.



I AM VOHU MANO,
THE GOOD MIND.

I AM HAURVATAT,
THAT IS
PERFECTION.

I AM ASHA
VAHISHTA,
RIGHTEOUS LAW
AND ORDER.

I AM ADAR GUSHASP,
THE SACRED FIRE.



WE ARE
THE ANGELS
OF AHURA
MAZDA.
ZARATHUSH-
TRA
IS HIS
MESSENGER.

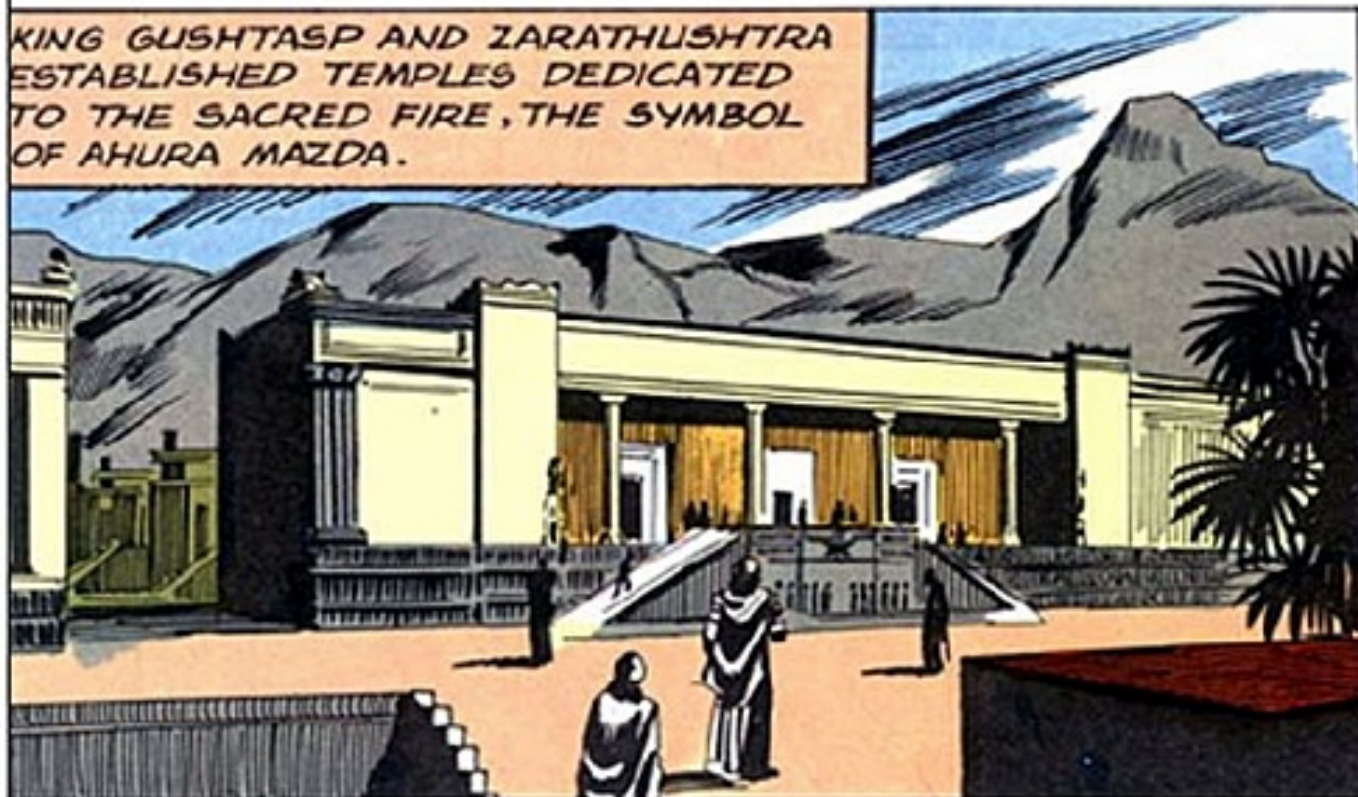
ZARATHUSHTRA
IS HIS MESSENGER;
LISTEN
CAREFULLY
TO HIS
WISDOM.

ACCEPT
HIS
RELIGION
COMPLETELY.

PROTECT HIM
FROM ALL HARM.



KING GUSHTASP AND ZARATHUSHTRA
ESTABLISHED TEMPLES DEDICATED
TO THE SACRED FIRE, THE SYMBOL
OF AHURA MAZDA.



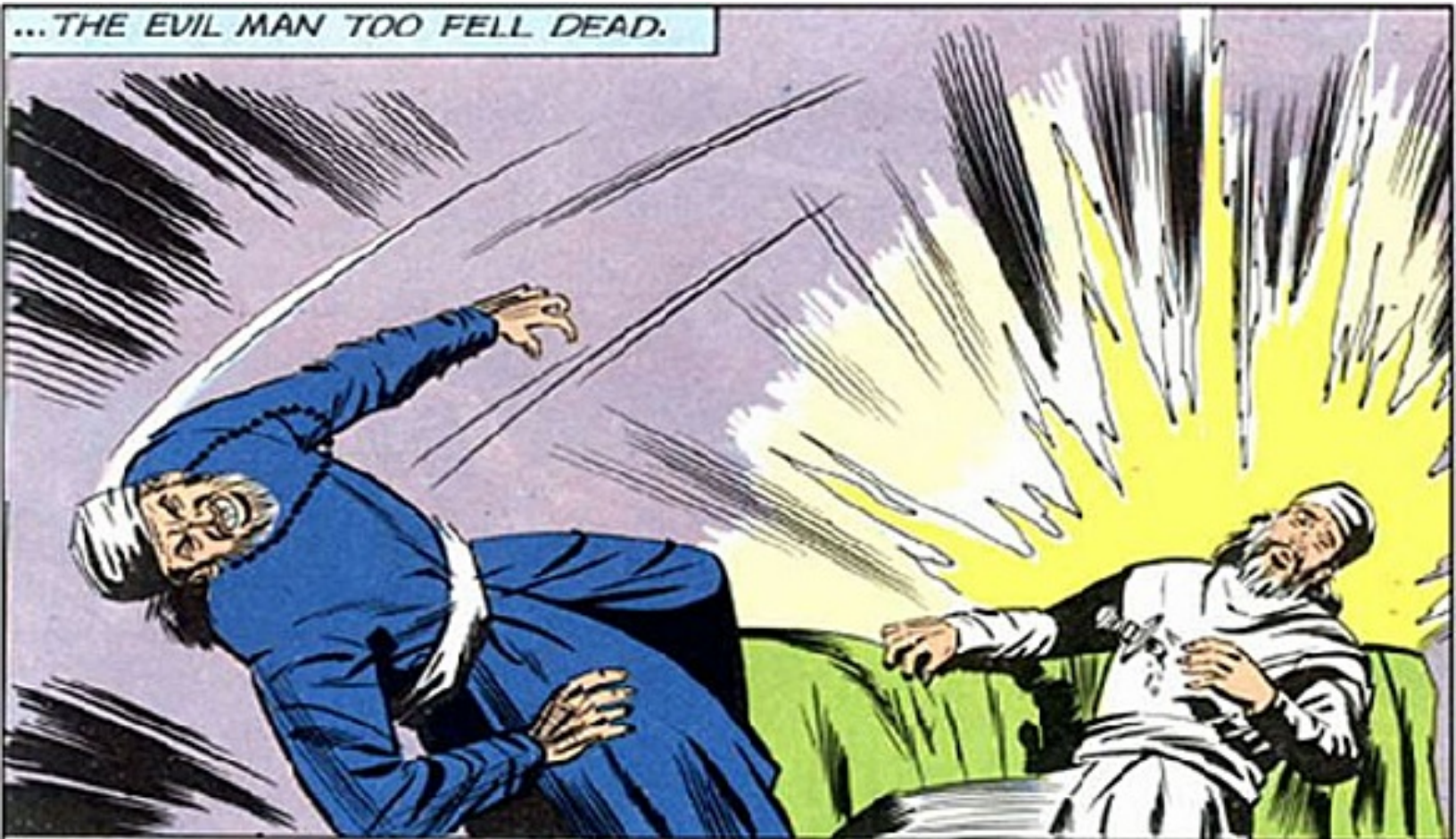
WHEN ZARATHUSHTRA WAS
SEVENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD—



THE MURDERER WAS A
TURANIAN RUFFIAN.
BUT BEFORE
ZARATHUSHTRA
DIED



...THE EVIL MAN TOO FELL DEAD.



ZARATHUSHTRA DIED, BUT THE GREAT RELIGION HE PREACHED 8000 YEARS AGO STILL LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF THOUSANDS OF ZOROASTRIANS WHO PRACTISE IT TO THIS DAY.





Illustrated Classics From India

Zarathushtra

Zarathushtra is the name of the prophet of the Parsis as it appears in the Avesta, their oldest scriptural text. In later writings the name appears as 'Zartusht, Zardosht'. In the ancient Greek writings the name of the prophet appears in various forms, but the most common form is 'Zoroaster', which is generally used in English and other European languages.

Zarathushtra lived and preached his religion in antiquity, in pre-historic times. His life-history, therefore, is not adequately known. But tradition has preserved the prophet's life-story as recorded in the late writings of the 9th century. These writings are evidently based on older sources. The life-story of the prophet given in this booklet is taken from the said traditional account.

The religion preached by Zarathushtra is based on the principle of Avesta arta - which signifies 'truth, law, divine cosmic law'. It is explained and expounded in simple language: humata hukhta hvarshta - 'good thought', 'good word', 'good deed'. The principle of divine justice is : BAD UNTO THE DOERS OF BAD. GOOD BLESSING UNTO DOERS OF GOOD.

The Zoroastrians once numbered millions, during the time of their empires (about 6th century B.C. to 7th century A.D.). After the downfall of the empire of the Sasanians about the middle of the 7th century, their numbers dwindled in Iran. Then some of them left Iran and migrated to India. At present the world population of the Parsis may be estimated at 130,000 souls - about 101,000 in India, about 18,000 in Iran, about 6,000 in Pakistan, and about 5,000 in Europe, America and other places of the world.

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